



October 2004

# HALE AHI NEWS



## HFD QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

July - September 2004

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### IMPORTANT DATES

- Tuesday, November 2, 2004  
General Election Day
- Thursday, November 11, 2004  
Veterans' Day
- Thursday, November 11-14, 2004  
HFCA 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
Ritz-Carlton Kapalua, Maui
- Thursday, November 25, 2004  
Thanksgiving Day
- Friday, December 10, 2004  
HFD Retirees Association  
Quarterly Meeting  
Training Center  
9:30 a.m.
- Friday, December 24, 2004  
Christmas Holiday (Observed)
- Friday, December 31, 2004  
New Year's Holiday (Observed)

## HFD "SUPPORT OUR TROOPS" RIBBONS

BY BATTALION CHIEF HIRAM KELIPIO

Units of the Hawaii National Guard are being deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, and several HFD fire fighters have received their activation orders. Fire Fighter 1 Aldann Rico was one of them.

Upon learning that Aldann was being deployed, members of Battalion 3, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon organized a gathering at Bellows Beach Park to show support for him, his new wife, and his family. Battalion Chief Ron Rico (Battalion 5/1) is Aldann's father and FF1 Barron Rico (Ladder 17/1) is his brother. Almost all of Battalion 3/1 personnel attended the gathering, along with other fire fighter friends and retired fire fighters from Battalion 3 who had worked with him. An idea was proposed during one of the brainstorming sessions that tend to occur at these types of gatherings. The idea was to create an HFD "Support Our Troops" ribbon, similar to the ones displayed by the public to show their support of our troops, and hang the ribbon in the front of Aldann's station.

Engine 39/1 assumed the responsibility of creating the ribbon. FF3 Paki Morgado, who also designed the HFD's 150th Anniversary shoulder patch, designed the ribbon. He and FF1 Dave Leandro donated the materials for the ribbon.

One half of the ribbon is yellow to show our support for all of our deployed troops, the other half is Hawaii's State Flag, in honor of all of our troops from Hawaii. At the bottom of the right side of the ribbon is the HFD logo in honor of our deployed fire fighters.

Hanging the ribbon on the front of the station notifies all who pass by that one of the fire fighters assigned to this station is on deployment to Afghanistan or Iraq. It also displays how proud we are of their commitment and service. After hanging Aldann's ribbon, other stations expressed



Captain Ray Anami, FF3 Paki Morgado, and FF1s Patrick Tosaki and Dave Leandro fronting the Olomana Fire Station.

an interest in posting ribbons for personnel from their stations who were also deployed. Engine 39/1's crew scrounged up additional materials and created addition ribbons. Today, ribbons for five other personnel hang at the following stations:

Station 24 – Ewa Beach  
Station 30 – Moanalua  
Station 41 – Mililani Mauka

Each ribbon was put up on the day of that fire fighter's activation/deployment. On the first day the fire fighter returns to duty with his company, he will take down his ribbon of honor.

As you pass by these stations and see the HFD "Support Our Troops" ribbons, we ask that you remember to keep all of our deployed fire fighters in your thoughts and prayers.





**PRIDE, SERVICE,  
DEDICATION**

**Honolulu Fire Department**  
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## Mission Statement

The mission of the Honolulu Fire Department is to respond to fires, emergency medical incidents, hazardous materials incidents, and rescues on land and sea to save lives, property, and the environment. We accomplish this mission by:

- Promoting safety and maintaining a well equipped, highly trained, and motivated force of professional fire fighters and rescue personnel.
- Promoting fire prevention and other public safety education programs.

## Vision Statement

The Honolulu Fire Department will continuously strive to meet the changing needs of our community by providing a modern and technologically advanced department. We will do this by maintaining a high level of readiness and by focusing on the professional development and training of all our personnel.

# FROM THE FIRE CHIEF ...

I want to take this opportunity to provide an update on the status of the Training Center lease.

In 1979, the City and County of Honolulu leased 5.16 acres of land from the Navy at 890 Valkenburgh Street to build the Charles H. Thurston Training Center and the Mokulele Fire Station for the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The facility was well utilized, and 13 years later permission was granted by the City to expand the Training Center by adding a second story to the building and also constructing a new recruit and physical fitness structure at the rear of the property. The City appropriated \$275,000 to plan and design the improvements; however, when they realized that there were only 12 years remaining on the lease, they requested that we start negotiations with the Navy to acquire the property in fee or to secure another long-term lease.

After years of numerous negotiation meetings and counter-proposals, we were at a stalemate. The Navy had placed a \$10 million purchase price on the property or a fair market lease rent, which was estimated at \$800,000 per year. Then, with the aftermath of the September 11 tragedy, the Navy decided that they needed the property and in-



formed the City that the lease would not be renewed and the HFD would have to vacate the premises by July 2004. Meetings were held with City officials to locate a new and larger site. Unfortunately, the City was in financial constraints and finding a centrally located site to purchase, not taking into account the design and construction costs, was extremely expensive and hard to find.

As the eleventh hour approached, one last attempt was made to reopen negotiations with the Navy. With the September 11 hype dying down and the government's new direction towards privatization, we were hopeful that the Navy's priorities had changed. Once again, cost was

an issue and the Navy, by law, was required to charge the fair market value for the property.

When all efforts failed, we contacted Senator Daniel Inouye's office for assistance. Senator Inouye set up a meeting with all the parties (City, Navy, and HFD) concerned. After intense negotiations, an agreement was reached for the HFD to obtain the Valkenburgh property in fee at no cost to the City. Congress, both the Senate and the House, would need to approve the land conveyance, however, the key was that the Navy, HFD, and the City had mutually agreed on the terms, which would make it easier for the transfer to be addressed in Congress.

If we are successful, we should be able to complete the transfer of property in fee (at no cost) by November 2004. Also, as part of next year's budget proposal, we are requesting funds to renovate and expand the Training Center as mentioned above. In the meantime, the 25-year lease, which expired on July 31, 2004, has been renewed until January 31, 2005.

Our administration takes great pride in ensuring that the best possible fire service is available for the community and that our personnel are equipped with the proper equipment and facilities necessary to fulfill their duties.

## MDA "Fill The Boot"

Once again, the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association membership and families volunteered their time to raise funds for the annual Labor Day MDA "Fill the Boot" event. This year, \$41,000 was raised statewide with Oahu contributing \$22,000.

Events at the Tamarind Square, Windward City Shopping Center, and Pearl City First Hawaiian Bank were staffed by MDA t-shirt clad volunteers raring to hit the streets.

Over the past 50 years, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) members and their families throughout the U.S. and Canada have volunteered their time and energy to support the work of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Through the volunteer assistance of fire fighters, the IAFF has raised more than \$220 million, which supports research and treatment, support groups, community education, braces and wheelchairs, and summer camps for friends and family members diagnosed with neuromuscular diseases.

Mahalo to all members who participated in this event as we continue the fire fighting community's tradition of support against this terrible disease.



## RETIREES' REALM

*All retired members are welcome to join fellow retirees as members of the Honolulu Fire Department Retirees Association.*

**Retirement Medical Benefits Notice:** The IAFF website ([www.iaff.org](http://www.iaff.org)) has the latest ruling by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) regarding the preservation of retirees' health benefits. The new proposed ruling would "permit employers to coordinate retiree health benefit plans with eligibility for Medicare or comparable state-sponsored health benefits. For additional information on this new ruling, visit the EEOC website at [www.eeoc.gov/policy/regs/retiree\\_benefits](http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/regs/retiree_benefits). The IAFF encourages all retirees to contact the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) at 1-888-687-2277 and your respective U.S. Congressional representatives in support of the new proposed EEOC ruling. Interestingly, the AARP opposes this new ruling. You may read about their stand on the AARP website at [www.aarp.org/legislative](http://www.aarp.org/legislative).

**Legislative Update:** Here is the listing of the legislative bills that have passed this Legislative Session and will have an affect on retirees:

- |    |         |  |         |
|----|---------|--|---------|
| 1. | HB2005: | Relating to Prescription Drugs   | Act 190 |
| 2. | SB2878: | Relating to the Federal Tax Limit on Compensation Applicable to the Employee's Retirement System | Act 183 |
| 3. | SB2929: | Relating to Medicaid Reimbursement   | Act 148 |

**Retirees' Luncheon:** The next retirees' luncheon is scheduled for October 24, 2004, 10:30 a.m., at the Buffet 100 Restaurant, Ward Warehouse.

**Retirees' Meeting:** The next HFD Retirees Association quarterly meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2004, 9:30 a.m. All members and new retirees and their spouses are welcomed to attend the meetings, which are held at the HFD Training Center. Annual dues are \$5.

**HFD Retirees Association:** The association welcomes any correspondence from HFD retirees. You may update your current residence, pass on any information you wish to share with your fellow retirees, or provide input for our column in the HFD Newsletter, Hale Ahi News. Contact retired Fire Chief Donald Chang at (808) 487-8862.

**Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card:** A Federal law has established the Federal Medicare Drug Discount Card program with many options for individual care. Persons must choose the options that best suit their individual needs. For more information, check the website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org).

**Employer-Union Trust Fund:** For benefit information call: Oahu: 586-7390 or Toll Free: 1-800-295-0089, email: [eutf@hawaii.gov](mailto:eutf@hawaii.gov), or go to the website: [www.eutf.hawaii.gov](http://www.eutf.hawaii.gov).

**Medicare Plan "B":** We would like to remind retirees who reach the age of 65 to enroll in the Medicare Plan B. For more info, check the website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

## A SUMMER OF ENLIGHTENMENT

By Fire Captain William H. Melemai III

*Captain Melemai's inspiring article was recently posted on the International Fire Fighters Association's MDA website at [www.iaffmda.org](http://www.iaffmda.org).*

Each summer, the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) sponsors a weeklong camp across the nation for children and adults afflicted with one of more than forty neuromuscular diseases. It is a chance for participants to rekindle old friendships and make new ones in a nurturing and welcoming atmosphere. It also serves as a much-needed break for each camper's primary caregiver. The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) has a fifty-year history of supporting MDA most notably through the "Fill the Boot" campaign, but many members also provide much needed assistance as camp counselors.

While viewing our Hawaii Fire Fighter Association's website, I learned that the MDA of Hawaii was seeking counselors from among our membership for its June outing at Camp Mokuleia on the North Shore. The MDA was desperate for support since its usual source of volunteers is from the military, and they were being called to active duty.

Not knowing what to expect, but wanting to assist, I took vacation leave and headed to camp. It was a dramatic, life-altering experience in the most positive sense.

As a first time volunteer, I came away with such a deep appreciation for all that I, and probably most of us, take for granted: the ability to walk, talk, sing, dance, laugh, and play. I had the privilege to care for some of the most friendly, talented, interesting, and appreciative people I have ever met. Some could not walk. I was their legs. Many could not sing. I was their musician. Others could not talk. I was their voice.

We get but one shot on this ride through life, and we all face challenges along the way. Some of us, like all the campers I met, have it tougher than others. I am grateful I am able to make their trip a little more enjoyable for just a little while. I hope more of us can be inspired to help by the motto of Jerry Lewis, the MDA's leader for the past 50 years, that reflects his caring heart and unshakable commitment: "I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Fate willing, I will return to camp next year eager to see and malama all those who I now consider, and who consider me, Ohana. However, I cannot say with certainty that all of this year's campers will return. That is the tragedy of muscular dystrophy. It can strike without warning and take without mercy. But one thing that it cannot do is dull the spirit, the will, or the desire of each victim to live. Dear 2004 campers, staff, and counselors -- Mahalo nui loa for the experience of a lifetime. "Aloha Oe, until we meet again."







## RECIPES

This is the third of four recipes selected to represent Hawaii fire fighters in a nationally distributed cookbook.

### Seafood Pesto Pasta

*Fire Fighter III Ricci Naone*

- 1 lb. Shrimp
- 1-1/2 lb. Salmon
- 1 bunch fresh Thai Basil  
(1 cup smashed down)
- 1 bulb fresh garlic
- 8 oz. Shredded Parmesan Cheese
- 3/4 cup Olive Oil
- 1 tsp. Hawaiian Salt
- 4 Carrots, peeled and sliced
- 2 big crown Broccoli Heads  
(cut into little heads)
- 1 Onion, sliced large
- 16 oz. Dry Pasta
- Ground Black Pepper to taste

Peel and de-vein shrimp, take skin off salmon and cut into 1-inch cubes, set aside. In blender, coarsely chop basil, garlic, olive oil, salt. Quickly mix in 6 oz. of cheese (save the rest for garnish). Set pesto aside in a jar with room to spare.

Boil water in a large pot. Blanch for 3 minutes the carrots and broccoli, take veggies out and set aside in large bowl. Add 16 oz. favorite shaped pasta and cook al dente. Save 1/2 a coffee cup of pasta/veggie water. Drain pasta and add into bowl of veggies. In sauté pan, lightly sauté onion, shrimp, and salmon in olive oil with a little garlic and pepper.

Add seafood mixture to pasta and veggie bowl. Add the saved hot water to pesto and mix. Then toss pesto with everything.

Serve pasta with side salad and garlic bread. Garnish with Parmesan cheese. Serves about 6 to 8 fire fighters!

## "GOOD OL' TIMES"

An Interview with Fire Commissioner Anson "Slim" Ilae

*by Battalion Chief Edmund Suzuki*

From the instant Mr. Anson "Slim" Ilae entered the room until he left, it was like taking a time machine back to the good ol' days of growing up in the Koko Head area. Back then, as it is today, the neighborhood kids gave each other nicknames. At the age of 5, Mr. Ilae was a short, roly-poly kind of boy so the kids started calling him "Slim." The name has stayed with him all these years, although he is no longer "roly-poly." He is an avid walker who frequents the Kailua area three times a week. In addition, he plays golf once a week with members from the Mountain View Golf Club, a club that originated in the Mountain View area of the Big Island, which has since relocated to Oahu.

He reminisced about getting up early on school days to feed the animals and tend the garden that provided their family with sustenance. After school, he would run home to do his afternoon chores. It was his father's work ethics that has been influential to Mr. Ilae's success; work came first and playtime was a privilege. These basic core values have been instilled on both his children and grandchildren. Somehow, I sense Mr. Ilae has taken it to another level with his relaxed but no-nonsense demeanor.

When time permitted, he would walk or ride horses to the back of Hawaii Kai to drink cold water bubbling from the ground and swim in the fresh water pools they constructed. We both wondered where the water has gone! After high school, he enlisted in



the U.S. Army and spent more than two years in Vietnam. He returned to Hawaii and was employed by Hawaiian Hauling, the Honolulu Police Department, the Hawaii Teamsters, Hawaii Tuna Packers, the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, and Unity House, Inc. He is presently employed by Young Brothers as a Barge Terminal Supervisor responsible for coordinating the activities of unloading and loading barges as they arrive on the docks from the neighbor islands. They are able to unload and load a barge with containers, livestock, and other commodities within a remarkable 12 hours thus maintaining a crucial lifeline between Oahu and the other islands.

Mr. Ilae's first taste of the fire service came in 1996 when Councilmember John Henry Felix introduced a charter amendment requesting the creation of a fire commission. Mr. Ilae was surprised to hear of this as he thought a fire commission, much like the police commission, was already in place. He be-

came a great advocate of the amendment, and in 1997, was asked by the Mayor if he would consider being one of the first fire commissioners. He was appointed in May of 1997, and has proudly served ever since.

The Fire Commission's main responsibilities include the hiring of the Fire Chief and the annual review of his accomplishments. They are involved with the Department's budget and lobby for our needs with the City Council. They also investigate complaints against the Department. What fire personnel may not know is that the Commissioners are strictly volunteers. They are not paid for the time or services they provide.

Mr. Ilae's most memorable moment on the Commission was the selection of the 32nd Fire Chief, Attilio K. Leonardi. He firmly believes that Chief Leonardi has taken the HFD forward into the 21st century and that his genuine concern for the betterment, safety, and welfare of the men and women of the HFD is priority.

He is the proud father of four sons and two daughters and grandfather to eight which keeps him busy along with his work at Young Brothers, walking his dogs, and golfing.

His message is to be passionate in what you do and compassionate towards others. I am truly honored to have had the opportunity to talk with this very personable, intuitive, and down-to-earth man.



Fire Fighter III Charles Griep receiving the Outstanding Fire Fighter Award from Department Commander Richard Haake, Department of Hawaii, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States, at the VFW Convention held on June 10, 2004.





## Not Just Any Kine Words...Not Just Any Kine Designs

by Fire Captains Kenison Tejada and Emmit Kane

*Ua noho a ma'a i ke ola.* "Ha'ikūmauma!" These are the Hawaiian phrases that will grace the front and back of the soon to be released incentive t-shirt that will be given to all personnel who completed the blood work analysis and personalized Health Risk Appraisal in conjunction with the Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative.



The shirt's beautiful design was a collaborative effort spearheaded by artist and Fire Fighter III Kaiu Akiona of Rescue 1. Early contributors to the design also included Fire Fighters Reid Yoshida and Craig Uchimura.

The front of the t-shirt displays a tapa-designed band as the background with three main characters demonstrating aerobic exercise, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility; three key ingredients to our Health and Wellness Program. The smaller

petroglyphs represent self-improvement, family, and our spiritual character. The back of the shirt incorporates the same tapa-designed band featuring the logos of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, the Honolulu Fire Department, and Kaiser Permanente. It is the partnership between the three agencies that contributed to the success of the program.

A lot of thought went into selecting the Hawaiian phrases. Over a hundred ideas on naming the program, including many suggestions from personnel in the field, were on the table when we sat down with Professor Laiana Wong of the University of Hawaii's Hawaiian Language Department. Professor Wong describes the process of coming up with proper phrases as a negotiation. The central thought we wanted to convey is that everyone should be "ma'a," or thoroughly knowledgeable about their own health and wellness, and that health and wellness should be a high priority for each one of us. Hence, "Ua noho a ma'a i ke ola" or "Live life in a way such that health and wellness are a natural part of it." Significant to note is that "Ua noho" was used instead of "E noho." The use of "E" would have been more of an exclamation to whoever is reading the shirt to live according to the saying. The use of "Ua" is more a personal statement by the wearer that "this is how I live my life, how I am by choice."



The phrase "Ha'ikūmauma!" or "working together to accomplish our common goal," was also negotiated. Commonly used nowadays as almost a chant, Professor Wong felt our use of the phrase was more in line with what it was originally used for – an exhortation to rally together in any kind of work. In our case, our work or our common goal is the health and wellness of our personnel, and the call is for HFD, HFFA, and Kaiser to work together towards that goal.

Mahalo to Aunty Lynette Shim for introducing us to Laiana Wong. After all was said and done, we can take pride in the fact that our Hawaiian phrases are correct and that they were negotiated, which gives them mana, or "spiritual power." Thank you, Professor Wong, for taking us through the process.

After all, it's not just any kine words.....not just any kine designs.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Picnic

by Battalion Chief Eric Adams

On July 27, 2004, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons of Battalion 4 held a family picnic event on the grounds of Lanikuhonua at Ko'Olina Resort. Mahalo to the James Campbell Estate for waiving the user fee to have this event on their much sought after property.

Battalion Chiefs Roland Harvest and Eric Adams spearheaded the event. Members of both platoons worked extremely hard with the set up, food preparation and serving, games and prizes for the keiki, lifeguard services, shaved-ice and cotton candy booths, and clean up. Ocean Kaowili, Kalei Davis, and Jason Racoma provided live musical entertainment.

Retired members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion and their families, along with the HFD Administrative staff, were also in attendance. Roughly 300 people enjoyed Hawaiian food, spit-roasted hindquarter, assorted pupus, and dessert. Everyone, especially the retirees, had a great time. The newer members of the Department were able to put a face to the names of the former "legends" of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, whose deeds and exploits are often recounted around the stations and social gatherings. The retirees had only one question, "When is next year's picnic?"



Former 4th Battalion personnel enjoy the delicious food and great company at Lanikuhonua.

## INTERNATIONAL POLICE and FIRE GAMES

by Battalion Chief Eric Adams

Approximately 60 members of the HFD attended the 1<sup>st</sup> International Police and Fire Games held on August 5-15, 2004, in Las Vegas, Nevada, with a total of 42 sports competitions. HFD participated in the volleyball, basketball, softball, track and field, and weightlifting events. The Honolulu Police Department also sent representatives. Because temperatures ranged from 115 to 119 degrees on competition days, personnel insured that they were well hydrated. Needless to say, all had a grand time and everyone supported each other.

### RESULTS

#### Weightlifting

Open Division	Mark Nakagawa	Silver Medal
275 lbs. and Over)	(Lifted 474 lbs.)	

#### Volleyball

Men's Open		5th Place
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Men's Over 40	(Kawika Morgan, Rankin Kaanoi, Pat Among, Chris Ah Mook Sang, Dan DeFries, and Brian Soares)	Gold Medal
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Co-ed	(Ken and Sherilyn Waters, Kawika and Kellie Morgan, Chris Ah Mook Sang, Dan DeFries, and Brian Soares)	Bronze Medal
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#### Basketball

Men's Open 3 on 3		Bronze Medal
	(Lloyd Trujillio, David Dela Cruz, Alan Park, Jimmy Reyes, John Collins, Craig Roberts, and James Arciero)	

3-Point Shoot Out	Beje "Dead Eye" Mahoe	Silver Medal
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#### Softball

Men's Open	Pool Winner	3 and Hibachi
Men's Over 40		6 <sup>th</sup> Place
Home Run Derby	Lance (Oogie) Gaspar	Bronze Medal

#### Track and Field

Half Marathon	David Stackhouse	Silver Medal
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4 x 100 yards	(225 lbs. and Over Relay)	Silver Medal
	(Beje Mahoe, Kimo Apana, Eric Capplonch, and Mark Nakagawa)	



The 11<sup>th</sup> World Police and Fire Games will be held June 2005 in Quebec City, Canada, and the 9<sup>th</sup> World Fire Games will be held in Hong Kong in 2006.



## Grants: New Money, New Rules, and New Friends

by Fire Captain Socrates Bratakos

**M**any people ask me about the “grant writing” done by the Planning and Development (P&D) Office. They know that P&D works on grants, but what does that mean? I tell them that it is not grant “writing” per se, but more organizing and coordinating.

Although grant management involves writing grant applications, most of the work lies in recording Department needs, formulating grant budgets, submitting City Council resolutions, monitoring program status, and writing performance and fiscal reports. It also includes purchasing, training, and writing new procedures. We have to determine Department needs, who will do the work, and the grant timeline.

Many people work on the grant process. The Administrative Services Bureau does the purchasing, Fire Operations provides input from the end users and managers, the technical experts at the Mechanic Shop, Storeroom, Radio Shop, Department of Information Technology, Fire Prevention, and Training and Research Bureaus contribute for classes, and P&D is the liaison to other divisions. These projects would not be possible without the assistance from others throughout the Department as well as outside agencies.

We work with many local, State, and Federal agencies, including the Oahu Civil Defense Agency, State Civil Defense, Department of Budget and Fiscal Services, State Department of Forestry and Wildlife, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security/Office of Domestic Preparedness, National Fire Academy, and the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. It's our relationships with these agencies that help to smooth our way out of a tight spot. We rely on and are closely tied to them. Actually, most of the grants we receive are Federal monies funneled through these various agencies.

Because many grants rely on inter-governmental agreements, the Mayor, Managing Director, and City Council are involved. Grant proposals and requests for matching funds from the City are generated. This involves drafting resolutions, attending meetings and hearings, and giving official testimony at City Hall.

Every grant has its own rules or grant guidance, which determines what can be purchased. Some are very strict. Projects have to be well planned, but application windows are very small, typically only one month, with lots of forms and attachments to complete. So before money can be received, we must write a detailed account of how the funds will be used.

All grants have a performance period, which is usually one year. If the money is not spent, it is lost. Even worse, we may be left liable to pay a vendor without being compensated. One of the tougher issues is that the grant period usually does not match up with our fiscal year, so deadlines can get awfully tight.

Grantors demand strict accounting, sometimes even dictating the reporting format. We also need to explain to our chain of command and to various government levels, what we have accomplished. This entails many phone calls, e-mails, memos, and letters to meet those requirements.

Grant monies bring tremendous opportunities, ones we did not have just a few years ago. 9/11 changed the country and increased the streams of Federal funding for first responders.

Will the opportunity for grant funding always be available? Will the requirements change? It is anyone's guess. So it is imperative that we take advantage of it now. We may be challenged, but we stand to gain much. It takes a lot of coordination, but the end result is that we improve our Department.

The monies received through the various grants have funded or will fund the following projects:

- *LAFF/LAFC Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative for all HFD personnel*
- *Physical fitness equipment for all stations*
- *Diesel filters extraction systems for all first-line apparatuses*
- *All-terrain vehicles for rehab/brush fire assistance*
- *Upgrade of all SCBA harnesses, regulators, and cylinders*
- *Clear Command voice amplifiers for all uniformed personnel*
- *Second set of structural turnouts for suppression personnel*
- *800 MHz system and radios for all fire fighters and more tactical channels*
- *Two new rescue apparatuses due for delivery in 2005*
- *A portable “live burn” trailer*
- *Laptop computers for all first-line apparatuses*



The 2004 HFD Scholarship Recipients accept their awards at a ceremony on September 15, 2004, at the Training Center.



## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Waikiki Fire Station Papio Tournament

by Fire Captain Gerald Komine

The Waikiki Fire Station's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Papio Tournament was held at the Kaneohe Bay Sandbar on July 30, 2004. A day of fishing was spent with 20 boats and over 90 die-hard fishermen trying to catch as many papio as they could, and searching for the one they could claim as the largest! This year's tournament would test the skill and luck of the participants, as oama was scarce. Some had to resort to using frozen oama from last year.

Tournament Coordinator Wayne Nojiri welcomed everyone and went over the fishing and safety rules before giving the "Let's Start Fishing" signal. After three hours, all boats were back on the sandbar where a lot of "you should have seen the big one we lost or we didn't even get one strike" was heard. After an hour of exchanging stories and reminiscing with friends, the time had come for the weigh-in. Doug Silva, our annual Weigh Master, brought out his trusty (or should we say rusty) 15-year old scale. After all the fish were weighed, awards were handed out to the following winners:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place: LARGEST PAPIO

Team Cheong/Komine (Sta. 7/2) - 6 lbs.

(Team Komine has been to every tournament and finally WON! Last year, they lost the total weight by ONE ounce.)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: TOTAL WEIGHT

Team Ferreira (Sta. 2/3) - 18.5 lbs.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: 15<sup>TH</sup> LARGEST (because this was the 15<sup>th</sup> tournament)

Team Nojiri - 1.1 lbs.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Place: LONGEST FISH

Team Wilson - 51 in.



A big mahalo to the following individuals who assisted with the event: Norman Kauwe and Gary Harbottle, Master Chef and Assistant - ono kaukau, Randy Cates, Robbie Cates, and Jeff Barbieto - Pontoon Boats, and Doug Silva - Weigh Master.

## Battalion 2 Golf Challenge and Fundraiser

by Fire Fighter I Dyron Ota

On Friday, June 18, 2004, 150 personnel from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, along with other HFD members both active and retired, participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Battalion 2 Golf Challenge and Fundraiser. This annual event is held at the Hawaii Kai Executive (Par 3) Golf Course and limits participants to the use of only three golf clubs and a putter. It is especially designed for the "challenged" golfers and included two "hand grenade" exceptions whereby if you could throw your golf ball on the green and qualify for the lucky number drawing. Some holes had only 6 names while others had as many as 53. The Golf Challenge was followed by a get-together at Battalion Chief James Arciero's house, which included live music, refreshments, Outback donated steaks, and other "ethnic" barbecue food. Captain Keith Kondo, FFI "Boy" Lopes, retired FF1 Mike Noguchi, and Captain Randy Ishihara prepared the "ono" grinds with assistance from other Battalion 2 personnel.

Congratulations to the following on the green winners:

#1 William Ralston, #2 Haki Logan, #3 Lee Marquez, #4 Gordon Mahiko, #5 Kenny Doane, #6 Frank Sanchez, #7 Simeon Alo, #8 Beje Mahoe, #9 Clyde Shimabukuro, #10 Rod Yamabe, #11 Ken Silva, #12 James Horibata, #13 Kimo Apana, #14 "Pocho," #15 Francis Puana, #16 Nate Ramos, #17 Jimmy Reyes, and #18 Dave Dela Cruz. There were 10 other lucky drawing winners. All prizes were donated from various sources.

Everyone was a little sunburned, but a great time was had by all, and a \$500 check was given to Easter Seals Hawaii on behalf of the Battalion 2 fire fighters.



## LAST ALARM

### FIRE DIVISION COMMANDER JOHN W. WRIGHT, JR.

July 2, 2004

Appointed February 13, 1942 - 31 yrs.

Last Assignment - 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion

### ASSISTANT CHIEF NORMAN S. K. WILSON

August 21, 2004

Appointed October 1, 1957 - 37 yrs.

Last Assignment - Operations B Div.



## TRAINING AND RESEARCH BUREAU

By Fire Captain Ronald Hashimoto

With the recent passing of retired Assistant Chief Norman "Sid" Wilson, the TRB would like to revisit one of his many contributions to the HFD. Chief Wilson was instrumental in the inception and development of our Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Program. The program has come a long way since those early days.

From the initial purchase and distribution of 30 AED in September of 1994 to the most recent acquisition of 82 units in January of 2000, HFD has placed AEDs on over 2,900 patients, shocked almost 700 of them, and as of this writing, contributed to 84 of those patients being discharged from the hospital.

On August 26, 1995, HFD received its first recorded AED save. Ladder 34, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon, responded to a medical call, and upon arrival found bystander CPR being performed on a 68 year-old male. Ladder 34 personnel hooked up their AED, which analyzed his heart rhythm to be in ventricular fibrillation. The AED went through its cycle of shocks, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> shock his pulse returned. He was then transported to Queen's Medical Center and discharged nine days later. The patient was able to enjoy four more years, his "second chance at life," with his



family and friends, including three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He passed away on May 28, 1999.

- Cost of AED in 1994: \$3,400
- Cost to staff Ladder 34 in 1994: \$19,000/mo.
- Cost of 4 more years of life: Priceless!

There are some things in life that money can't buy...

Thank you, Chief Wilson, for one of those things.



Volunteer participants of the HFD's first EMT-B Incumbent class attain national certification. Mahalo to Instructors Dave Takehara, Channing Morita, Mark Yeager, Victor Sherman, Kendall Ching, Charles Griep, and all third party examiners.

## PERSONAL PROFILE

### GLENN K. SOLEM

By Fire Captain William H. Melemai III

Understanding the science of fire investigation takes years of study, ample field experience, and independent research. Mastering the art of fire analysis can take a lifetime. The importance of efficiently and accurately determining fire causation cannot be understated. Every fire department attempts to find and develop individuals who are willing and able to fill the vital role of a fire investigator.

Fortunately, the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) has been able to rely upon Glenn Kanakahou Solem, a Fire Captain with 31-1/2 years of dedicated service. He has been both a practitioner and fire investigations instructor for our Department since 1990.

After graduation from Kaimuki High school in 1962, Captain Solem continued his education at Boise Community College (now Boise State University). He entered the HFD in September 1973 and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion upon completion of recruit training. He has served at Engine 13, 15, and Ladder 18. In 1980, he suffered an unfortunate back injury due to an aerial ladder accident. This resulted in a three-year absence from the HFD. Despite this incident, he looks upon his tenure with Ladder 18 with pride because it had the distinction of being the only aerial apparatus in the 3rd Battalion, consequently responding to all manner of incidents along the windward coast.

Captain Solem credits a number of special people who inspired and motivated him throughout his career. Among them are Battalion Chiefs Ernest Latorre and Daniel Mahiko who impressed him with their professionalism and leadership skills. Fire Captains Walter Komatsubara and Dennis Lewis, and Fire Fighter Val Ching taught him the importance of honoring the sacrifices of our fallen comrades. He helped them to design and create a memorial display that pays respect to the fire fighters who perished at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Fire Captain David Hamaishi also provided much appreciated friendship and support to him, his children, and other family members.

Captain Solem served as president of the Hawaii Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) and remains on its Board of Directors. The HFD recognized his significant contributions to the Department and excellence as an investigator by naming him Employee of the Year in 2003.

He is an avid University of Hawaii sports fan and attends football, basketball and Wahine volleyball matches. He is contemplating retirement this December and looks forward to spending more time with daughters Uilani (25), a speech therapy specialist, Nohealani (22), a college student and Mahealani (18), a recent 2004 Kamehameha Schools graduate.





## "At Scene, In Command"

by Jerry Spencer - Fire Captain E1/1

**HAN:** Chief Nojiri, you were born in Honolulu. What schools did you attend?

**Fire 6:** I attended Lunalilo Elementary, Washington Intermediate, and McKinley High School.

**HAN:** So, you grew up in that area?

**Fire 6:** Yes, in McCully.

**HAN:** After high school, did you go into the military or continue with school?

**Fire 6:** I went to the University of Hawaii (UH) for three years and then joined the National Guard. Then I came back from basic training, I got a job driving taxi, and then joined the HFD in November of 1974. I didn't go back to college until 1981.

**HAN:** What were your Department assignments throughout your career?

**Fire 6:** My first station was Waikiki for about a year and then I was transferred to Waipahu. After Waipahu, I was stationed at Kakaako for eight years from 1975 to 1983, then promoted to Rescue 2 in September 1993. I was promoted to FF3 in April 1984, and assigned to Palolo. In March 1986, I made Captain and was stationed at Waianae. From there, I was transferred to Waikiki and stayed there until I was promoted to Battalion Chief in January 1993, where I was assigned to the Administrative Services Bureau for two years. And, from there Battalion 1/2 and then Battalion 3/2. I was fortunate to have been assigned to four of the five battalions. In 1997, I served as the acting Assistant Chief in Administrative Services until I was promoted to Fire 4 in 1998. I was then assigned as Fire 3 for three and a half years until becoming Fire 6 in December 2001.

**HAN:** What made you decide to join the fire department?

**Fire 6:** In my National Guard unit one of the men, Henry Yasso, was already in the Department and another, Duane Caringer, was talking about taking the test. I had no idea what the fire department was about but they had talked



about it so I decided to take the test and got in.

**HAN:** Did you have any family in the Department?

**Fire 6:** No. I knew absolutely no one except Henry Yasso.

**HAN:** What has been your most memorable event in the firehouse?

**Fire 6:** The Peter Crown incident in 1995. It happened on my watch and I was the Incident Commander. Besides the event itself, it has been a major incident in terms of the time it took to resolve. It just recently concluded in 2003. It never went away. There was no closure to that event for eight years. So, for me it is this incident that has been most memorable.

**HAN:** As for leaving a legacy with this Department, what would that be for you?

**Fire 6:** Hopefully, I have contributed programs that made the Department better than when I came in. You always start programs and expect those programs to improve. The AOT and the Officers' Training Class are good examples. Both programs have evolved significantly from what they were before.

Another example, before the Asian Development Bank Conference (ADB) Police and Fire seldom worked with each other. ADB forced us to work together and we developed a good working relationship that continues today. When 9-11 happened, we already had a good rapport with the Police, which made working together easier.

Another result of the good working relationship is the sharing of Federal grant funds. HPD agreed to give HFD a major portion of their share of the grant for a new radio system. As a result, my major project today is developing an interoperable communication system between the HFD, HPD, EMS, and the rest of the City. This project is long overdue.

The Hale Ahi News is also a big project that I hope is perpetuated. It takes many people to put together a quality newsletter. We are always looking for volunteers to assist in the research, gather information, writing articles, or layout. If anyone is interested in these areas, please email us at [haleahinews@honolulu.gov](mailto:haleahinews@honolulu.gov).

**HAN:** Last question, what is the most important message you would like to say to our fire fighters?

**Fire 6:** Assistant Chiefs are given a chance to talk to the newly promoted employees before the promotional ceremony. My message is always the same. Education, you have to continue your education. Whether going for your fire science degree, bachelor's degree, or your master's.

And that's not the only education available. The National Fire Academy (NFA) offers so many classes and all it takes is your time. Airfare, room, and board are free. Also, continue to attend conferences, seminars, and workshops to assist you in developing ideas on how to improve the Department. This is continuing education and without it the Department would stay where it's at with no improvement and no change.

Fire 1 has set a standard by obtaining a lot of educational credentials. I followed by going back to UH for my MPA degree. It's never too late to continue your education. Even though I am close to retirement, I continue to attend classes like the EFO program at the NFA. I am in my third year of that program, which is not just a two-week program. There is ongoing research and a paper that needs to be submitted upon your return home. There is no end to education.

End of interview.



## “E Alu Like Mai Kakou”

by Fire Captains Edward Hunter and Socrates Bratakos

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association (HFCA) Conference was held on November 20-23, 2003, at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. The conference theme was “E Alu Like Mai Kakou,” which means, “Let’s all work together.” It was an appropriate title for a conference that focused on cooperation, networking, and interoperability. Conference activities included an “icebreaker” opening celebration, presentations by visiting speakers and Chief Officers of the State’s fire departments, exhibitions by fire service product vendors, and dinners.

Assistant Chief Wayne Nojiri and Battalion Chief Edward Simeona were co-chairs of the conference. A core committee was formed and met regularly to prepare for the conference. Over 250 people volunteered their time and efforts to schedule and assist with the icebreaker event, transportation, a hospitality suite, entertainment, and core functions of the conference meetings. Thank you to all involved for your hard work!

The “Icebreaker” was held on Thursday evening, November 20, 2003, at Ala Moana Park’s McCoy Pavilion. More than 300 people attended this affair, which featured great food, music, and fellowship. In keeping with this year’s theme, the fire departments on Oahu (HFD, Federal Fire, Hickam, State Crash, and Chevron) worked together on this very successful event. The weather was great and all who attended enjoyed themselves.

On Friday, November 21, 2003, the conference agenda began with opening remarks and an HFCA update by the HFCA President, Assistant Chief Alvin Tomita. Following the update, guest speaker Michael Smith, Deputy Fire Chief from the Washington D.C. Fire Department spoke on “Interoperability and Networking.” Chief Smith’s discussion focused on the activities that transpired on September 11, 2001, when a jetliner with 80 plus persons aboard (piloted by a terrorist) crashed into the Pentagon in Virginia. Chief Smith confessed that there was a disaster response plan, however, it had been developed in the early eighties and had not been updated since then. The chief was very blunt in emphasizing that interoperability and networking starts from Day One. Departments may have the best available technologies but when there are unanswered questions about jurisdictional capabilities or functional roles, resources may not be used effectively or responders may be placed in harms way. All emergency managers need to be on the same page prior to an incident.

Following Chief Smith, representatives from each County, State, Federal, and private fire department gave an overview of their annual operations, accomplishments, and future goals. This gave attendees a broader perspective of the direction and preparedness of the fire service in the State of Hawaii. The conference also provided over 40 manufacturer representatives an opportunity to display new products and answer technical questions on their latest designs.

Saturday’s agenda commenced with Fire Chief Mike Brown, Kitsap County Fire Department and Past President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), who provided an update on the IAFC national initiatives along with their regional support programs. Jeff Griffin, Division Secretary of the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA), presented an overview on how the WFCA is currently working on issues that directly affect the fire service. In the afternoon, Mr. Glenn Furuya of Leadership Works gave a lively three-hour seminar on identifying personal leadership traits and developing individual leadership skills.

From our perspective, attending the conference as Associate Members was a great opportunity to learn, not only from the presentations and the exhibits, but also from networking with our current and retired Chief Officers. For the low price of ten dollars, one could attend the opening celebration with a guest, participate in the presentation sessions, and cruise in the hospitality room located in the penthouse suite with an ocean view and Diamond Head in the background. What a deal! Too bad more Captains were not able to attend.

The HFD did a superlative job of hosting this event and those who attended this function were very fortunate. This year’s conference will be hosted by the Maui County Department of Fire Control on November 11-14, 2004, at the Ritz-Carlton Kapalua. Don’t miss the opportunity to attend!

### Cuddle Bear Donation

Stephanie Doyle was a three-year old from Tennessee when she was given a stuffed bear by the responding Nashville Fire Department ambulance company. She never forgot the comfort it gave her as she rode in an ambulance to the emergency room.

Now eight years old, Stephanie is a Brownie in Troop 80 from Kailua. She and her Brownie sisters organized a garage sale that netted \$300, and used the proceeds to purchase stuffed bears to comfort children who are involved in traumatic incidents.

On September 10, 2004, the HFD formally presented a certificate to Troop 80 in recognition of their generous donation of the 140 stuffed bears for the HFD Cuddle Bear Program.





## ANNIVERSARIES

**JULY TO  
SEPTEMBER  
CONGRATULATIONS!**

### 20 Years

Darrell K. Kuioka  
Harold H. Ogata Jr.  
Albert R. Remos  
Anthony Y. Sung  
Joseph E. Zarembo

### 5 Years

Jason J. Apuya  
Dean M. Ideue  
Joseph C. Laurel  
Arthur K. Lyman  
Dale K. Mosher  
Terry A. Raquedan



## PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following personnel who were promoted during the 1st quarter:

### **FIRE FIGHTER IIs** **August 10, 11, 12, 2004**

John H. Akana  
Jacques J. L. Kauhane  
Alvin K. Ku  
Jason M. Racoma  
Thomas M. Reppuhn  
Frank F. Sanchez III  
Blake A. K. Takahashi  
Craig J. Uchimura

### **FIRE FIGHTER IIIs** **September 27, 28, 29,** **2004**

Nelson H. Makua  
Jon T. Omore  
Clifford M. Rigsbee

## CIVILIAN CORNER

by Fire Captain Kenui Spencer

## MARILYN AMEMIYA

TRAINING AND RESEARCH BUREAU

Marilyn Amemiya has been with the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) for 21 years. Not only has Marilyn worked at the HFD Training and Research Bureau (TRB), she has also worked in the Administrative Services Bureau, for Fire Chief Anthony Lopes (retired), and Deputy Fire Chief John Clark. On returning to the TRB, Marilyn says, "I really like the atmosphere here at the TRB. People are sincere and work as a team. Over the years, I've had the opportunity of getting to know many people who rotated through the bureau." Her basic responsibilities as a secretary are reviewing and editing work from all the different sections of the TRB.



Married for 21 years to her husband Roy, Marilyn enjoys spending time with her family. Both son and daughter are now students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. "We like to dine at restaurants that we haven't tried before and travel to different places. This year, we traveled to Japan and Chicago," says Marilyn.

Marilyn and Roy worked for the same private sector company before she joined the HFD. With a big friendly smile, she said that after they were married, "...we felt that one of us should work elsewhere." And we're glad that she did.

## COMMENDATIONS

**The HFD receives many letters of appreciation and commendation recognizing various Fire Fighters/Companies for going above and beyond the call of duty. The following are excerpts from the letters received in the 1st quarter.**

Pauline Sato, Director of The Nature Conservancy, Oahu Program, commended the outstanding efforts of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Battalions at the Kunia forest fire in July. She recognized personnel from the Kakaako, Makakilo, Mililani Mauka, Moanalua, Mokulele, Pearl City, Wahiawa, Waiau, Waikale, and Waipahu stations, as well as pilots Steve Aiu and Terry Watanabe, Fire Captain Kevin Chow, and Battalion Chiefs Ron Rico and Manny Neves. "They carried out their assignments with skill and professionalism and worked well with our staff." Ms. Sato and staff thank the well-trained crews for performing so admirably.

George and Teruko Kuwahara were involved in a traffic accident fronting the Waikiki Police Station on July 24. They appreciate the Waikiki Fire Station (3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon) for responding quickly and rescuing them from their overturned vehicle. "It is very reassuring to know we have such excellent services."

On August 29, Paul Fernandez, President of PF Electric Typewriter and Time Clock Service, found almost 2-inches of water flooding his office floor. Not knowing where to turn, he called the Kalihi Fire Station for assistance. Within 10 minutes, Captain Earl Kealoha and crew arrived. They, in turn, called Captain Charles Hook and the Kuakini crew. "The two crews cleaned up the water quickly, efficiently, thoroughly, and with good humor. Our heartfelt mahalos to the Captains and their crews who responded so professionally."

On August 19, Mr. Casimiro "Manny" Morales, Executive Loan Officer with Western Mortgage Company, found himself with two flat tires and gas stations that were unable to assist him. He slowly drove into the Waialua Fire Station (1<sup>st</sup> Platoon). "...without hesitation, 3 or 4 guys came and helped me from putting air in my tire, changing it, and installing it. I said, thank God... there are a lot of people that are nice and caring like your crew."

**PRIDE, SERVICE, DEDICATION**